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Letter dated 10 April 2015 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith a note verbale from the Permanent Mission of France to the United Nations dated 31 March 2015 and a report on the activities of Operation Sangaris in the Central African Republic, for transmittal to the Security Council in accordance with its resolution 2149 (2014) (see annex).

(*Signed*) **BAN Ki-moon**

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Annex

[Original: French]

The Permanent Mission of France to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Office of the Secretary-General, United Nations Secretariat, and has the honour to inform it of the following: pursuant to paragraph 47 of Security Council resolution 2149 (2014), the Permanent Mission of France transmits herewith the report on the actions undertaken by French forces from 15 November 2014 to 15 March 2015 in support of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) (see enclosure).

The Permanent Mission of France to the United Nations would be grateful if the United Nations Secretariat would bring this report to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

Enclosure

Operation Sangaris

Support to the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic in the discharge of its mandate

Period under review: 15 November 2014 to 15 March 2015

1. Basis of support to the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic

In accordance with Security Council resolution 2149 (2014), paragraph 47, the technical agreement of 3 October 2014 authorizes the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) to request French forces to use all necessary means to provide operational support if there is a clear indication of a grave and imminent danger to its staff, premises or assets.

The general chief of staff of French forces has tasked the Sangaris force with supporting MINUSCA, within the limits of its capacities and areas of deployment. It should gradually hand over full responsibility for those areas, while retaining a reserve role for the benefit of MINUSCA.

2. Context of support actions

From mid-November 2014 to mid-March 2015, as a direct result of developments in the crisis, joint Sangaris-MINUSCA actions and Sangaris actions in support of MINUSCA have taken place in a changing environment.

2.1 Developments in the size of the Sangaris force

During the period under review, the security situation in the Central African Republic improved and MINUSCA grew in strength. As a result, the numbers of the Sangaris force were gradually reduced. At the time of writing, the force comprised some 1,700 soldiers in two robust combined arms battle groups.

2.2 Developments in the area of responsibility of the Sangaris force

During the period under review, the Sangaris force modified its area of action as and when MINUSCA grew in strength. In the course of its operations, it deployed temporarily to N'Délé, Grimari, Dékoa and Bria, thereby extending its area of action from Bangui to N'Délé and from Sibut to Bria. At the end of February, the Sangaris force withdrew from Bria, bringing its eastern limit back to Bambari.

2.3 Development of the area of responsibility of MINUSCA

On 15 September 2014, MINUSCA took over from the African-led International Support Mission in the Central African Republic (MISCA). Since then, its numbers have steadily grown. In accordance with its strategic concept of operations, it is expected to reach full operational capacity by 30 April 2015. In addition to increasing its numbers, the United Nations force has extended its area of action, gradually taking over in the areas where the Sangaris force had previously

been deployed, as had happened in the West of the country and subsequently, in the early stages, in the East and the central corridor.

3. **Generic actions undertaken by the Sangaris force**

- France's operational actions are guided by respect for human rights and international conventions.
  - With regard to prevention, the Sangaris force has adopted a deterrent posture based on local-level patrols in support of MINUSCA.
  - The Sangaris force and MINUSCA react decisively to abuses, intervening as swiftly as possible in order to bring the abuses to an end.
- In the context of confidence-building measures, the Sangaris force has been supporting MINUSCA by implementing and overseeing measures for the disarmament and barracking of armed groups in its areas of deployment. In the exploitation phase following the Bria operation, which took place in close coordination with MINUSCA on 10 February 2015, the Sangaris force carried out intensified checks to ensure compliance with those measures.
- The joint action of the Sangaris force and MINUSCA has contributed significantly to the overall improvement in the security situation of the Central African Republic. Bangui, Sibut, Bambari, N'Délé and Bria are cases in point.
- Lastly, the ongoing work of the Sangaris force alongside MINUSCA has facilitated the resumption of economic activity in its areas of deployment. This is particularly true of the central corridor and Bangui, but also of the main roads, such as the road connecting Cameroon to Bangui.

4. **Substantive support provided to the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic**

- Nine French soldiers, including the chief of general staff of MINUSCA, have been integrated on an ongoing basis into the general staff of MINUSCA, where they help to ensure that the two international forces understand one another's intentions.
- In the same vein, a liaison detachment comprising six Sangaris officers maintains a constant presence at MINUSCA field headquarters and in the sector headquarters of the joint operational force of MINUSCA police. From the end of March 2015, the liaison detachment will be strengthened so that teams can be incorporated into the three provincial sector headquarters of Bouar, Kaga Bandoro and Bria respectively, with five French soldiers at each. That temporary deployment will enable the Sangaris force to keep abreast of the situation in areas monitored by MINUSCA, exchange situation assessments and coordinate any Sangaris operations for the benefit of MINUSCA.
- The French and MINUSCA force commanders regularly interact in a unified manner with the transitional authorities and the main political and military actors in order to coordinate their joint actions. The general officers commanding the two forces meet each week.

- As regards coordination and mutual support, planning cells J5/J35 of the joint field command post of the Sangaris force and planning cells of U5/U35 of MINUSCA meet every two weeks to plan the military operations of the two forces.
- The Sangaris force and MINUSCA have regularly carried out coordinated patrols in the areas where French forces were deployed. Since mid-November 2014, the Sangaris force has carried out some 50 patrols in support of MINUSCA, particularly in Sibut and Bria.
- Some joint operations have also taken place since mid-November. Since mid-January 2015, the role of the Sangaris force in such operations has focused on a MINUSCA-first approach. The most recent operations, which were intended to retake administrative buildings in Bria and then in Bambari, adopted that approach.
- In the area of logistics, France has supported the contingents of Congo and Gabon within MINUSCA by making available and maintaining 47 vehicles. The Sangaris force also refuels United Nations aircraft at Bria and N'Délé, where neither MINUSCA nor private Central African fuel suppliers are present.
- Lastly, in terms of medical support, among other actions, the Sangaris force has conducted seven surgeries and provided paramedical assistance in 446 cases for MINUSCA over the last four months. MINUSCA has established three level II hospitals, in Bangui, Kaga Bandoro and Bria respectively. Pending such a time as those hospitals can perform at full capacity, the French medical team at the advanced surgical facility of Bangui is providing the bulk of level II support for the 9,000 MINUSCA soldiers.